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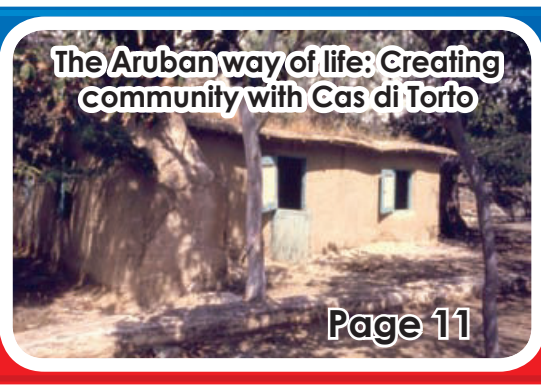
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Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK
PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO	ANDERSON BAHAMON	JEAN PAUL	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	MARRYBELL MADURO	MAILLEYN ALVARADO	RICKY THOMAS
SINGER	SINGER	SAXOPHONIST	VIOLINIST	SINGER	VIOLINIST	GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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Citing national security, Trump Justice Dept defends White House ballroom project

Washington, United States
The Justice Department defended President Donald Trump's contentious White House ballroom project on Friday before a panel of skeptical appeals court judges.
The two Democratic appointees on the three-judge panel peppered a government lawyer with tough questions during a two-hour hearing in a Washington courtroom as part of a lawsuit brought by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
The East Wing of the White House has already been demolished to make way for the $400 million ballroom project, which the Republican president has said is being financed by wealthy private donors including himself, not taxpayers.
The Trump administration has asked Congress for an additional $1 billion for security features for the ballroom, which is to include an underground bunker, but the request has been stymied so far by opposition from Democratic lawmakers and some Republicans.
A district court ordered a halt to construction of the ballroom earlier this year, saying it needed the approval of Congress, but the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit has temporarily allowed the project to go ahead while litigation continues.

Construction is seen on the East Wing of the White House in Washington, D.C., on May 29, 2026, as part of U.S. President Donald Trump plans to build a White House ballroom.

Yaakov Roth, representing the Justice Department, asked the appeals court panel on Friday to lift the lower court order permanently and said only Congress could intervene, not the courts.
"Your position is this can't be stopped in court?" asked Judge Patricia Millett, an appointee of president Barack Obama.
"That's right," Roth said. "It can only be stopped by Congress."
Millett also asked whether anything could be done if the government decided, for example, to demolish the Statue of Liberty.
"If the government decides, very quickly, to bulldoze the Statue of Liberty... nothing can be done?" the judge asked.
"I think that's right, yes," Roth replied.
Judge Bradley Garcia, an appointee of Democratic president Joe Biden, also appeared skeptical of the government's arguments. But they were met favorably by the third member of the panel, Judge Neomi Rao, a Trump appointee.

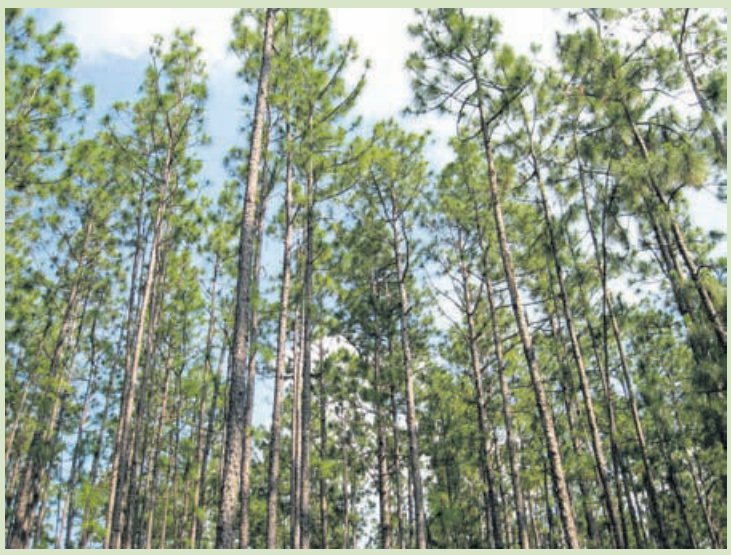
- 'Safety and security' -
Roth said the ballroom project should also be allowed to proceed on national security grounds.
"The old East Wing was not adequate to protect the safety and security of the president and others in the White House," he said. "This project is designed to update those protective features to ensure that they are capable of withstanding modern weaponry like drones."

Tad Heuer, representing the National Trust for Historic Preservation, urged the court to halt the ballroom project.
"This case is about who controls federal property," Heuer said. "Is it Congress, its owner? Is it the president, its temporary tenant? The Constitution is clear, it is Congress."❑

Alabama's $17.5M green miracle: Restoring the great pine forests for future generations

In the heart of the American South, a quiet but monumental transformation is taking root. Alabama, a state renowned for its sprawling river systems and emerald forests, has officially committed $17.5 million toward a landmark wildlife restoration project. This initiative is not merely about planting trees; it is a profound effort to heal a landscape and ensure that the state's natural legacy remains vibrant for generations to come.

The centerpiece of this ambitious plan is the restoration of the iconic longleaf pine ecosystem. Centuries ago, these majestic, towering pines blanketed nearly 90 million acres across the Southeast. Today, due to over-harvesting and urban expansion, less than five percent of that original forest remains. Alabama's new funding aims to reverse this trend by reclaiming thousands of acres of lost habitat, turning the tide for one of the most biodiverse environments in North America.



"This is a generational investment," says state conservation official Sarah Jenkins. "We aren't just looking at the next four years; we are looking at the next hundred. We are rebuilding an entire world from the soil up."

The project's impact reaches far beyond the timber. The longleaf pine forest is a sanctuary for some of the region's most vulnerable residents. Among them is the gopher tortoise, often called the "landlord of the forest." These tortoises dig deep, elaborate burrows that provide vital shelter for more than 350 other species, including the rare Eastern indigo snake and various small mammals. By protecting the tortoise, the state is effectively providing a home for an entire community of wildlife.

Furthermore, the initiative is a lifeline for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Unlike other birds, these specialized woodpeckers only peck their nesting cavities into living pine trees, a process that can take years. The restoration of old-growth stands ensures that these rare birds have the specific environment they need to thrive and sing once more in the Alabama wilderness.

The $17.5 million will also support the revitalization of Alabama's wetlands and river basins. These areas act as the state's natural kidneys, filtering water and providing a buffer against flooding. By restoring the natural flow of these waterways, the project guarantees cleaner water for local communities and more resilient shorelines in the face of changing weather patterns.❑

‘Stigmatized’ or ‘sustainable’? Vintage sales boost sees fur return

New York, United States

Laura Jacobs thought she’d never wear animal fur, having witnessed years of protests over its use in clothing until suddenly she started spotting it all over New York.

Jacobs fished out the long mink her grandmother left her years ago and took it to a Manhattan furrier to give it a second act.

Fur “was stigmatized for so long,” Jacobs told AFP, posing before a full-length mirror and assessing a potential crop.

But the return of real fur “fits with everything that’s going on with recycling and bringing back vintage,” she said.

“I never would have bought a fur coat,” Jacobs said, adding that the thought of “killing animals like that” gave her pause.

But “this felt like I was recycling it,” she said.

Larry Cowit, owner of Madison Avenue Furs shop, selects fur coats for a customer in his store in New York City, on March 10, 2026.

New York is thawing out after a particularly cruel winter that’s included debates over fur’s revival as influencers push the look and retail sites report a jump in searches for vintage pieces.

Business owners like Larry Cowit who inherited and runs his family’s Madison Avenue Furs are celebrating a sales spike.

“I have girls as young as 20 years old walking in, coming in from college, and putting on a fox jacket,” Cowit told AFP. “We haven’t seen that in quite a while.”

Noelle Sciacca head of fashion at the high-end resale site The RealReal said “interest in fur has accelerated dramatically,” with searches for vintage fur on their website nearly tripling in 2025 from 2024.

The trend is “booming across the board,” she told AFP, “but real fur is clearly leading the surge.”

Sciacca owes part of the interest to “sustainable, accessible resale options,” which she said “has made consumers feel comfortable embracing fur as both stylish and thoughtful.”

- Muddled public opinion -

The global fashion industry’s use of fur has been on the outs for decades.

Synthetic, cheaper alternatives have gained traction, and animal rights activists continue to push dropping the real thing.

Demonstrators recently urged Milan Fashion Week to go fully fur-free. New York’s Fashion Week fur ban goes into effect in September 2026.

Many major designers have vowed to stop using it, including Prada, Michael Kors and Saint Laurent.

The European Commission meanwhile is reviewing a citizen’s initiative that drew millions of signatures urging an EU-wide ban on fur farming. A spokesperson told AFP the commission would communicate in the coming weeks whether it would propose such a prohibition.

Yet the culture’s court of public opinion has grown muddled, notably as concerns about fast fashion and petroleum-based materials grow.

“I always imagine all of the faux-fur coats being produced right now melting into a puddle of plastic. The idea of reuse and recycling can include vintage fur,” Vogue archivist Laird Borrelli-Persson said in comments recently published by the fashion magazine.

“The question for me is whether wearing vintage fur increases the appetite for lookalikes either faux or new fur.”

Real fur coats demand consistent upkeep. The skins contain natural oils, and garments not kept in a temperature-controlled environment ideally off-season in cold vaults can dry out and disintegrate.

“It’s biodegradable,” said Cowit.

But Ashley Byrne of animal rights group PETA said buying vintage under the banner of sustainability is “well-meaning but misguided.”

She told AFP that shoppers who didn’t grow up exposed to footage from inside fur farms should “understand that wearing any fur that came from the back of an animal who was tortured and killed is endorsing things that we’re sure they do not want to support.”❑

‘Bookless bookstore’: audio-only book shop opens in New York

New York, United States

Audiobook giant Audible opened what it billed as the first “bookless bookstore” in New York on Friday as industry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format.

There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

“This is a physical place entirely dedicated to bringing audio storytelling to life,” Audible CEO Bob Carrigan said during a press tour of the “Audible Story House” on Thursday.

It was a slightly “wild idea” which “took quite a bit of imagination,” Carrigan said, adding that the month-long pop-up aims to “bring audiobooks to life in this environment where you can browse, you can connect with people.”

According to the Audio Publishers Association (APA), audiobook sales reached $2.22 billion in the United States in 2024, nearly doubling over the past five years.

In the store, audiobook tablets called “story tiles” line the shelves, ready to be inserted into a player for listening through headphones.

Each tile plays a short excerpt and the full title can be accessed on the Audible app.

The platform, which dominates the audiobook market, offers paid subscriptions, individual purchases and free access to some titles for Amazon account holders.

The venue also has a room lined with speakers for headphone-free listening, as well as a “Listening Bar” where “Story Tenders” will “guide attendees in finding the perfect audiobook for their tastes and interest,” according to the press release.

The space aims to reflect the fast-growing popularity of the format as well as the “shift toward offline experiences and real-world connection.”

“Audible Story House taps into the nostalgia and community feel of book culture while bringing it fully into the present,” the company said.❑

A customer shops at the Audible Story House in New York, on April 30, 2026.
The pop-up store labeled as a “bookless bookstore” is dedicated to audiobooks.

Latest 'Scary Movie' aims to cancel 'cancel culture,' creators say

Los Angeles, United States
With its fake horror and off-color jokes, the creators of the sixth installment in the "Scary Movie" franchise say they are offering an antidote to what they see as today's censorious culture.
The Wayans family, who created the politically incorrect parody almost three decades ago, bring their offering to US cinemas this Friday, and think it is arriving at just the right time.
"I think that it's an important movie right now for the culture, so that we can handle cancel culture in a whole another way," Shawn Wayans told AFP at the Los Angeles red carpet premiere.
Wayans is confident that audiences in 2026 will embrace this new episode of the saga, which takes on issues at the heart of the culture wars, like sexuality, gender and race.
"Just because cancel culture exists, it doesn't mean that we shouldn't have laughter anymore," he said.

(L-R) U.S. actor/producer/writer Marlon Wayans, U.S. actress Kim Wayans and U.S. actor/producer/writer Shawn Wayans attend Paramount's "Scary Movie" premiere at the Paramount theatre in Los Angeles, on June 3, 2026.

"I think it's important for the world to be able to laugh; that's healthy, it's healing, it's medicine."
His sister, actress and comedian Kim Wayans, agreed that as a society we need to have fewer sacred cows and be more ready to laugh at things, even if it offends some people.
"Tonight we're going to cancel cancel culture that's what this movie is going to do," she said.
Director Michael Tiddes said the project proved to be a challenge.
"You had to find a balance between the movies we were spoofing, the Wayans brothers' authentic comedy that I was injecting into the film, and also our own story and our own characters, making sure that they had a beginning, a middle and an end," he said.
In addition to Shawn, Kim, Marlon and Damon Wayans, the cast also features Anna Faris, Regina Hall, Jon Abrahams and Cheri Oteri bringing back Doofy, the parody of the killer from "Scream" (Ghostface) that served as the catalyst for the very first film.

But true to tradition, the new installment was refreshed by satirizing recent horror hits including "The Substance," "Sinners," "Smile," "Weapons," "Longlegs," "Terrifier" and the series "Wednesday."
The franchise is back in the hands of the Wayans clan after several years of absence, becoming a true family affair.
Not only did several of the brothers write the script, but some of their children and nephews such as Gregg Wayans also joined the team. For the 37-year-old, "Scary Movie" is timeless and has the potential to make different generations laugh, thanks to his uncles' brand of "no-limits" humor.
"I think people want to laugh. They're just waiting for filmmakers like my family to stop abiding by all the rules," he told AFP.❑

Javier Bardem terrifies Amy Adams in TV adaptation of 'Cape Fear'

Los Angeles, United States
Spanish actor Javier Bardem drew inspiration from the natural world to embody the disturbed protagonist in the TV version of "Cape Fear," bringing the character, previously portrayed by Robert De Niro and Robert Mitchum, to a new generation with different traumas.
"There's some menace, there's this animal component in Max Cady that has always been there, that is so physical," Bardem told journalists ahead of the June 5 series' release on Apple TV.

"But also it has to be attractive. It has to be something that you cannot take your eyes off, and at the same time, when you least expect, it can attack you," added the 57-year-old actor.

It's a quality that co-star Amy Adams says makes Cady a "patient predator."
The 51-year-old actress plays Anna Bowden, who, along with her husband Tom (Patrick Wilson) and their two children, becomes the target of Cady's fury years after he is jailed for murdering his own wife.
Adams says she drew inspiration for the role from the performers of Hollywood's Golden Age.
"I always sort of go back to classic actresses in the way that they could sort of toe a line between extreme femininity and just rock hard will and grit," she said.
"I think it's just a part of how I like to view women is this 'strong' and 'soft,' and I love that contradiction," she added.

Spanish actor Javier Bardem, US actress Amy Adams and US actor Patrick Wilson attend Apple TV's "Cape Fear" premiere at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles, on June 2, 2026.

- 'Invisible vulnerabilities' -
The series is based on the 1957 book "The Executioners" by John D. MacDonald, which was adapted into two films, one in 1962 and the other in 1991.
The latter version starred Robert De Niro, Nick Nolte, and Jessica Lange, and was directed by Martin Scorsese.
Scorsese and Steven Spielberg are executive producers of the upcoming series created by Nick Antosca.
Antosca said expanding a two-hour film into a 10-episode series allowed the team to create twists and turns that reflect the nature of the current moment.
One of the new elements is Cady's story, whose murder trial is the genesis of the marriage between his then-lawyer Anna and the prosecutor, a young Tom Bowden.

The idea was that "this family's life and their happiness is fully built on Max Cady's suffering. He's not an incidental, forgotten figure in their past," Antosca said.
"Both the husband and wife were involved in the trial... they got married because of the trial. They have kids because of the trial.
"'Cape Fear' is the story of the destruction of a family that feels safe (by) a monster...who finds invisible vulnerabilities under the surface."
The television format also allowed the production to give Cady more depth and show the evolution of his rage.
"I wanted the audience to be able to sympathize with him at times, and be terrified of him at times," Antosca told AFP on the Los Angeles red carpet.❑

France's data centre ambitions bump up against rural fears

Fouju, France

France's ambition to compete in the global rush to build artificial intelligence data centers is dividing a small village outside Paris, where a massive planned facility stokes both hope for an economic dividend and fears of disruption.

Lying between the capital and the ancient royal palace at Fontainebleau, Fouju is a community of just 650 people.

But it is set to host a 50-billion-euro ($58 billion) "AI Campus" project, announced to great fanfare at a summit of government and tech leaders in the French capital early last year.

President Emmanuel Macron vaunted France's reliable nuclear power and available land for construction as he welcomed leaders to the event.

French President Emmanuel Macron delivers a speech during the "Choose France" business summit, aimed at attracting foreign investors to the country, at the Chateau de Versailles in Versailles on June 1, 2026.

Emirati investment fund MGX, France's state investment bank, AI startup Mistral and American chipbuilder Nvidia are funding the Fouju development, whose website says it will "host next-generation computing infrastructure... for companies specializing in new technologies and developing AI".

Some locals are worried by an opinion from the regional environment authority (MRAe), which dubbed the campus a project of "extraordinary" scale.

"We're asking ourselves a lot of questions," said 68-year-old Giuliano Del Negro, who attended a recent meeting held to inform residents about the plans.

While planners say "it's all beautiful, it's all fantastic", locals fear environmental impacts, "disruption during the construction work" and potential expansion of the village with new houses or even blocks of flats, he added.

Having moved there to enjoy the countryside peace and quiet, "we'd like Fouju to stay the way it is", Del Negro said.

- New tax millions -

Another local, who only gave his name as Laurent, countered that the data centre "will generate money and jobs".

But even he baulked at the prospect of a prison supposed to be built alongside the data centre in a neighboring municipality.

Fouju mayor Jonathan Wochenmayer said the village could take on some "sizeable projects" using the millions of euros expected to flow from the data centre each year.

For now, the municipality's annual budget amounts to just 650,000 euros, with 90 percent going towards its operating costs.

Plenty of ideas are already in the air about how to spend the windfall: new pavements, renovating the school or offering home-help services.

The project's backers also insist that the data centre, whose first phase is scheduled for completion in 2028, will create between 300 and 500 jobs.

- Power consumption -

Local environmental group FNE 77 countered in a response to the public call for comments that "the project's economic value is questionable".

"Significant" potential tax income would come "at the price of significant disruption... which has been played down" in the planning documents, the association added.

"We're not against any and all data centers, because it's true that we need them, but not monsters like this one," said FNE 77 chief Jean-Francois Dupont, who lives around 10 kilometers (six miles) from Fouju.

For him, the data centre project is born of "infatuation with all things digital" and "developing AI at breakneck speed in all directions".

Dupont is more concerned with the pollution set to be created by the site's 613 backup generators, which will need regular testing.

He fears that the data centre could also create a local hotspot in the summer months, and release so-called "forever chemicals" (PFAS) from the 680 powerful cooling systems needed to keep its servers running.

The MRAe estimated the total power consumption of the 11 planned buildings of 20 metres (65 feet) in height at around 850 megawatts the same as 200,000 typical French homes.❑

Rhino return to Zim park 30 years after poaching evacuation

Johannesburg, South Africa

A Zimbabwe park that evacuated all its black rhino three decades ago to save them from poachers has reintroduced 17 of the critically endangered animals in a milestone project, it said Friday.

The animals flown into the Matusadona National Park over the past week were descendants of black rhino removed in the 1990s as poachers slashed their numbers, the park manager said.

"It's their descendants that we're bringing back into the system," Michael Pelham told AFP, adding the project was believed to be the first of its kind on the continent.

"We are rewilding with our own genetics coming back," he said.

Over one year in the early 1990s, poachers after rhino horn dropped Matusadona's rhino population from an estimated 250 animals to just 16, he said.

A nine-year poaching spree across Matusadona and other parts of the northern Zambezi Valley cut the area's black rhino from 3,500 to just 400 animals, he said.

"In this situation, it was feared we would possibly lose all of the genetic stock, so surviving animals were moved," Pelham said.

Most went to other parts of Zimbabwe but about 25 were shipped to Australia and Texas.

"Some of the animals that we took out of Matusadona in the early 1990s are still alive, but too old to bring back here and move again," Pelham said. "But their offspring are coming back into the park."

The new arrivals were dehorned and new technology such as drones and trackers was in place to safeguard them against poaching, he said. Another 20 were due to arrive next year.

The world's black rhino population dropped from approximately 65,000 animals in 1970 to only 2,300 in the wild in the early 1990s, according to the International Rhino Foundation.

The numbers had recovered to about 6,800 after intense anti-poaching efforts, it said.❑

Luther Amiss, 33 an anti-poaching ranger holds a firearm while guarding a rhino at a conservancy on the South boundary of Hwange National Park, on October 8, 2025.

D.R. Congo's traditional healers on Ebola front line

Bunia, DR Congo

In her garden, traditional healer Mariam Kabika looked for ingredients for a concoction to treat Ebola, a deadly virus spreading in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

"I'm looking for eucalyptus leaves, avocado leaves, mango leaves and papaya leaves," said Kabika, a healer in the city of Bunia, the capital of Ituri province, at the centre of the latest Ebola outbreak.

Ituri lies in the east of the vast country, a mineral-rich but poor region ravaged by decades of conflict where state services are largely absent.

The Ebola outbreak, which was declared on May 15, is the central African country's 17th.

So far, it is confirmed to have infected 359 people, including 61 who died, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Health workers arriving to respond to the Ebola outbreak often run into deep mistrust from the local population.

Mariam Kabika (L) and her husband Dauda Tshimanga (R)prepare mixtures of medicinal plants and roots that they believe can cure Ebola in Bunia, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, on June 2, 2026.

Traditional healers, who live among the locals and enjoy their trust, find themselves on the front lines of the fight against a disease that is passed on through close contact and bodily fluids. While there is no vaccine or treatment for the Bundibugyo strain responsible for the current flare-up, Kabika and her husband, Dauda Tshimanga, claim to have developed a cure.

- Ancestors' laboratory -

The couple's practice in a thatched hut is cluttered with amulets, perfume to ward off evil spirits and herbal brews.

"The laboratory of the ancestors," they call it.

"If the patient does not get better with the plants we have prepared, we bring them into this laboratory to invoke the spirits and ask the ancestors for help," Tshimanga said.

On the wall, painted in red letters, are the various afflictions the pair say they can treat: "Sexual weakness, typhoid, hernia..." And now Ebola.

Tshimanga claims he can treat Ebola with an inhalation of boiled plants, taken morning, noon and night for three days.

Since the start of the latest outbreak, no patient has yet tried the treatment, but during previous outbreaks, "we cured many people who came in bleeding, with fever," he said.

"Traditional medicine has not yet been brought in for the treatment and response to this disease, but we are ready to contribute," Tshimanga said.

- Trad-healers -

The couple are what's known in the DRC as tradi-practitioners, a profession that is not officially recognised in the country, although it is regulated and, in theory, licensed.

Health infrastructure can be crumbling or non-existent in the eastern DRC where diseases are often thought to be the result of a poisoning by an enemy, a neighbour, colleague or relative.❑

Bolivian police clear key road into protest-hit La Paz

La Paz, Bolivia

Bolivian police and soldiers cleared Friday a key road that anti-government protesters had clogged with debris to block deliveries of food and other supplies to La Paz.

A month of demonstrations calling for center-right President Rodrigo Paz to resign have paralyzed the Andean nation, with around 100 protest blockades around the country causing severe food and medicine shortages in major cities.

Security forces guard a road following its reopening after protests demanding the resignation of Bolivia's President Rodrigo Paz in Carreras, La Paz department, Bolivia, on June 5, 2026.

The U.S.-backed, pro-business Paz took office in November promising to resolve the country's worst economic crisis in decades, but his unpopular economic reforms and failure to respond to social demands have roused public ire.

He has repeatedly called for dialogue with protesters but on Wednesday announced a bill to declare a state of emergency, which would authorize military deployment to repress the movement and clear the blockades.

As Congress debates the measure, police officers backed by the military on Friday removed debris obstructing a road leading into La Paz and neighboring El Alto from the south.

Paz, visiting the unblocked road, said the operation led by newly appointed Defense Minister Ernesto Justiniano aimed to "liberate the Bolivian people."

Dozens of people have been travelling several kilometers from La Paz to nearby farming communities on foot to stock up on foodstuffs.

Supplies are also running low in the cities of Cochabamba, Oruro and Potosi.

The government accuses former socialist president Evo Morales in hiding from charges related to his relationship with a teen with whom he allegedly fathered a child of fomenting the unrest.

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump's new Shield of the Americas alliance -- an anti-cartel coalition that includes pro-U.S. administrations in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile among other countries -- gave Paz its unequivocal backing.

- U.S. 'watching' unrest -

"We stand with Paz's democratic government as it fights back against attempts to drag Bolivia backwards through cynical efforts to prevent the delivery of food, medicine and other vital supplies to the Bolivian people through fake road blockades," the alliance members said in a statement.

"Those who are funding these protests with dirty money from drug trafficking and transnational crime should be held accountable," they said, while urging Bolivians with "legitimate grievances" to accept the government's offer of dialogue.

A day earlier, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned that Washington was "watching" the situation in Bolivia and warned against a return to "the old status quo of "narco-terrorist dominance in the region."

The reference by Hegseth and the Shield of the Americas to drug trafficking appeared to be a swipe at former coca grower Morales, whose political heartland of Chapare is at the heart of Bolivia's cocaine trade.❑

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Anchor

(ORANJESTAD)— You might have noticed this iconic Aruban landmark looked a little different this time. Instead of its usual bright red color, the large anchor at the south east coast was flexing Aruba's flag colors.

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to find the anchor?
The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the anchor
Size
It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?
There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:
"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:
"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them. "

How did the anchor become a landmark?
Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the years
Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The best time to visit
When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.❑

A Double Premiere in Palm Beach: Upstyle Emporium and Little Rose Opened at Palm Beach Plaza Mall

PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Aruba's interior design and collectors' landscape has undergone a sophisticated transformation. Two distinct yet complementary boutiques have opened in the heart of Palm Beach Plaza Mall: Upstyle Emporium and Little Rose. Together, they represent a first-of-its-kind retail concept for Aruba and the wider Caribbean region.

Two Worlds, One Destination

While sharing a passion for history and character, the two stores offer uniquely different experiences tailored to every type of treasure hunter:

* Upstyle Emporium: The island's premier destination for high-end, curated antiques and rare decorative items. From timeless furniture pieces to exquisite period art, Upstyle Emporium is designed for the discerning collector looking to elevate their space with authentic, sophisticated history from Europe and Asia.

* Little Rose: A delightful boutique dedicated to the art of the find. Little Rose offers a high-quality selection of European and Asian vintage curiosities, nostalgic treasures, and charming accents. It is a place where every item tells a story, offering accessible beauty for those who appreciate the soul of vintage living.

A Unique Concept for the Caribbean

This dual opening marks a milestone for the region. "Never before has such a comprehensive collection of history been presented with such meticulous care and aesthetic vision in the Caribbean, offering a serene, gallery-like experience for every visitor."

Whether you are searching for a significant investment piece to complete a luxury villa or a unique vintage gift that cannot be found anywhere else, these sister stores ensure there is "something for everyone."

Visit Us

We invite the public to explore our collections and discover the stories behind the items. Experience the contrast between the high-end elegance of Upstyle Emporium and the eclectic charm of Little Rose.

- Location: Palm Beach Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard 95, Noord Aruba
- Standard opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11am to 4 pm. Please check our Social media posts for additional opening hours.
- Private Viewings: For a more personalized experience, contact us directly to schedule a private visit.

Step inside and find the piece of history you've been looking for.

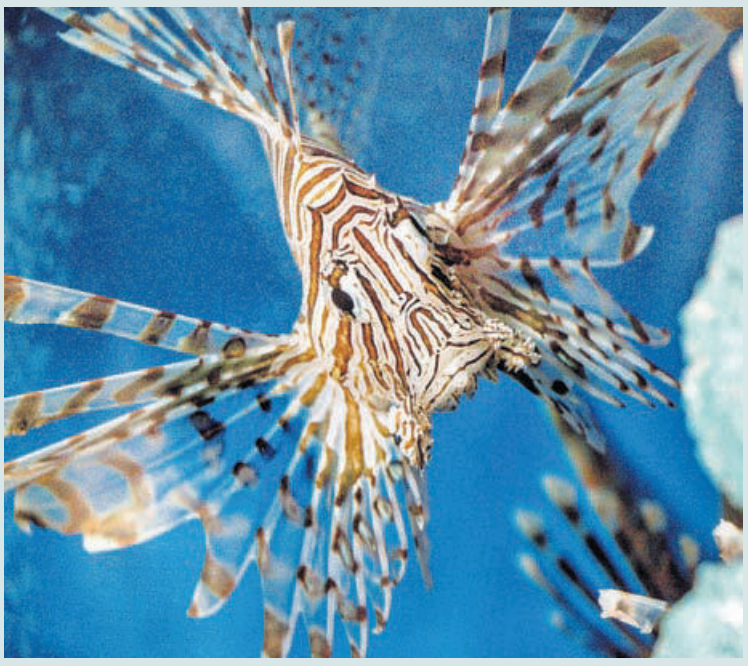
The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the



fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance.

These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life.❑

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Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)–If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, "Sero Colorado" translates to "Colored Hill". Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area include the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, "San Nicolas" translates to "Saint Nicolas", leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as "Shon" by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas.❑

Source: "Aruba: Short History" by Dr. J. Hartog.

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.❑

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

ORANJESTAD—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as Tabebuia billbergii, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamento: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aretima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aretima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aretima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aretima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aretima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aretima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers.

Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aretima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.
Upon arriving back at the hut, Aretima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aretima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns.❑

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation!❑

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses looks like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century.❑

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

ORANJESTAD—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking

it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.❑

***warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.**
***kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

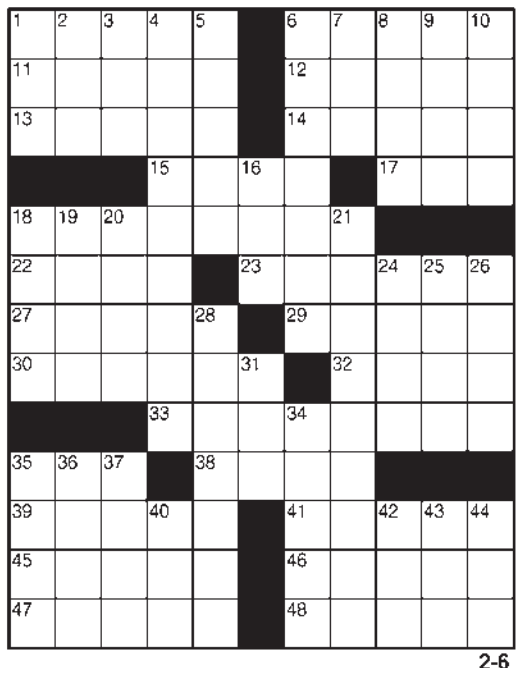
ACROSS

1 Restaurant unit
6 Kind of point or length
11 Got to one's feet
12 Chilled
13 In the middle of
14 Fashionably dated
15 Comfort
17 Japanese currency
18 Magnificent
22 Nick Charles's wife
23 Swindlers
27 Plumbing problems
29 Mrs. Eisenhower
30 Frolicking
32 Cairo's river
33 Illinois city
35 Flying mammal
38 Squeal of delight
39 Detest
41 Dark fur
45 Angry look
46 Mistake
47 Did some tailoring
48 Use the rink

DOWN

1 Airport screening org.
2 Cash dispenser
3 Scary shout
4 Lindbergh nickname
5 Painter Degas
6 Ulna's place
7 Start of a count
8 Metropolis
9 Lot unit
10 Writer Uris
16 Attack command
18 Machu Picchu native
19 Shed feathers
20 Item used onstage
21 Usury expert
24 Leave out
25 Metric amount, for short
26 Spotted
28 Relished
31 Basketball's Ming
34 Snoots
35 Sacks
36 Skilled
37 Turn to slush
40 Galena, for one
42 Lingerie item
43 Whole bunch
44 Before, to bards

S	C	R	A	M	■	J	I	G	G	Y
K	O	A	L	A	■	A	D	E	L	E
A	R	D	E	N	■	M	A	N	I	A
T	O	L	E	D	O	■	■	E	D	S
E	N	E	■	A	R	M	Y	V	E	T
R	A	Y	■	T	I	A	R	A	S	■
■	■	■	S	I	G	N	S	■	■	■
■	B	E	R	N	I	E	■	B	A	R
B	O	L	O	G	N	A	■	A	P	E
A	L	A	■	■	S	T	A	L	I	N
S	L	I	P	S	■	I	S	L	E	T
T	I	N	E	S	■	N	I	E	C	E
E	X	E	R	T	■	G	A	T	E	D



2-6

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q S Q R V A Y B . . . S Z L S Q R S Z B

S N K B B G W V L J L S Q A J A P S Z Q R

H A N V C , H Z L S B Y B N O L F T B

S Z B B G W V L J L S Q A J A P S Z B

J B G S . — A R I L N H Q V C B

Cryptoquote: SURELY YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS... I AM SERIOUS. AND DON'T CALL ME SHIRLEY. — "AIRPLANE!"

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than underprepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the

store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

			2		7			
6	3	4		9				
							8	
	9						3	2
5			1			7		
				7			9	
9				8	5		4	6
		7			1			
			3	6				

Difficulty: ★★★★ 6/6

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Answer to previous puzzle

1	3	6	8	2	4	9	7	5
7	8	5	3	1	9	6	2	4
9	2	4	5	7	6	3	1	8
4	7	3	2	9	5	1	8	6
5	1	9	7	6	8	2	4	3
2	6	8	1	4	3	7	5	9
3	9	2	4	5	7	8	6	1
6	4	1	9	8	2	5	3	7
8	5	7	6	3	1	4	9	2

Difficulty: ★★★★ 6/5

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Scientists find yeast in ancient Iceman's guts and make bread

Paris, France

Yeast has been growing in the guts of a frozen mummy called Oetzi the Iceman for thousands of years, scientists have discovered, telling AFP they used it to make a tasty sourdough bread.

More than 5,300 years ago -- before the Egyptian pyramids were built -- Oezti was strolling through the Alps on the border of Austria and Italy when he was killed by an arrow in the back.

He remained frozen in the ice until two German hikers stumbled across his mummified remains in 1991 in the northern Italian region of South Tyrol.

Since then, his stunningly well-preserved remains have been kept at the same temperature minus six degrees Celsius as his icy tomb.

This has allowed scientists to carefully study Oetzi, who offers an incredibly rare window into ancient human life.

For the latest research, published in the Microbiome journal on Wednesday, an Italy-based team found evidence that both ancient and modern microbial life remain active in the frozen body.

"What we didn't expect to find was yeast," lead study author Mohamed Sarhan of the Eurac Research institute in the Italian city of Bolzano told AFP.

The mummy of an iceman named Otzi, discovered on 1991 in the Italian Schnal Valley glacier, is displayed at the Archaeological Museum of Bolzano on February 28, 2011 during an official presentation of the reconstrution.

- 'Very good sourdough' -

The scientists discovered four different yeasts that can survive sub-zero temperatures in Oetzi's guts, skin and "brownish" water that melted off his body when he was partially unfrozen.

These kinds of yeast only live in very cold conditions such as Antarctica, so are believed to have entered Oetzi's body at some point after he died.

Genetic analysis revealed "DNA damage levels very comparable to the original microbes" in the Iceman's guts, suggesting the yeast entered his body soon after death, Sarhan said.

"These yeasts have accompanied Oetzi on his long journey through the millennia," study co-author Frank Maixner said in a statement.

The scientists then reproduced the gut yeast in a fridge.

"If you tell anyone you have yeast, they immediately ask: can we use it for bread?" Sarhan said.

So they tried to make a sourdough loaf.

"Initially it didn't work," the microbiologist admitted.

But after three months of effort "we had a very, very good sourdough," Sarhan said with a laugh.

When asked if the scientists were considering using the yeast to brew beer, he responded: "It's on the list."

The study contained more serious possible uses for the yeast.

When the mummy was found in 1991, it was initially treated as a normal cadaver. A chemical called phenol was used to stop fungus from growing in the body.

However the strange yeast was able to eat the phenol, meaning that in the future it could help break down the chemical in contaminated environments, the scientists said.❑

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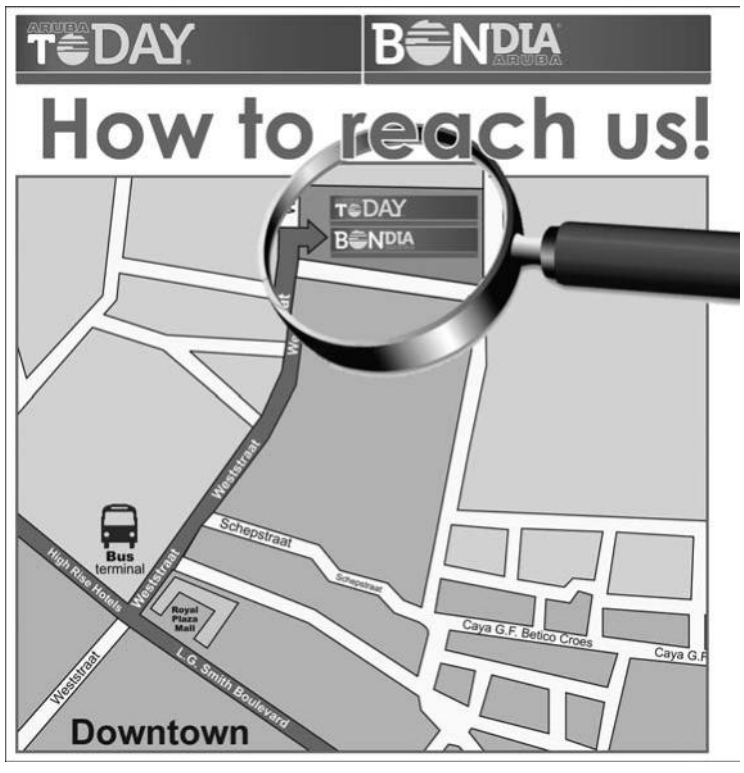

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Anthropic calls for pause of global AI development

New York, United States
Artificial intelligence company Anthropic suggested Thursday a global pause on building the most powerful AI systems as the latest models are beginning to show signs they could escape human control.
The San Francisco-based company, which makes the Claude family of AI models, said in a report that a worldwide slowdown in cutting-edge AI development would "likely be a good thing" but warned that if only one company stopped, rivals would simply race ahead.
"We believe it would be good for the world to have the option to slow or temporarily pause frontier AI development to enable societal structures and alignment research to keep up with the advance of the technology," it said.
Getting a real pause to work would mean multiple major AI companies in multiple countries most notably the United States and China all agreeing to stop at the same time, under rules everyone could actually verify, Anthropic said.
That idea may prove somewhat unpopular with the likes of Elon Musk, as the hotly anticipated stock market debut of his SpaceX company which owns his artificial intelligence venture xAI is expected to make him the world's first trillionaire.

Jack Clark, Co-Founder and Head of Policy of Anthropic, speaks during the Semafor World Economy 2026 conference in Washington, DC, April 13, 2026.

"Without a global coordination mechanism, companies and governments will have to make difficult decisions about safety while under competitive and geopolitical pressures," Anthropic said.
The company has faced pushback from others in the industry and officials in the White House who say its focus on worst-case scenarios overstates the risks and amounts to a strategy for slowing rivals under the cover of safety concerns.
Still, the White House has acknowledged the power of the company's Mythos model which has not been made available to the general public due to its cybersecurity capabilities and is currently deployed only to a small number of vetted organizations.
The proposal would face an uphill battle in Washington and Silicon Valley, where US officials and tech executives have repeatedly argued that any slowdown in AI development risks handing China a decisive strategic edge in what many see as the defining technology race of the century.
U.S. President Donald Trump, however, said he discussed the possibility of cooperating with China on AI safety issues during his recent visit to Beijing.
Trump also signed an executive order this week that allows the government 30 days to conduct a preliminary review of the most powerful U.S. AI models before their release.

- 'Human role narrowing' -
Anthropic compared the problem to nuclear arms control treaties, but said it would be even harder to get a handle on since AI training is far easier to hide than a missile silo, and the temptation to quietly keep going would be enormous.
"You want the option to be able to take your foot off the gas and put your foot on the brake," Anthropic's co-founder Jack Clark told Britain's BBC Newsnight on Thursday.
"Right now, it's like the AI industry has a gas pedal, but it doesn't have a brake pedal."
The company said it plans to bring together government officials, scientists, advocacy groups and competing AI firms in coming months to figure out how such a system could work.

The call for coordination comes alongside internal data showing that AI is already dramatically speeding up the development of AI itself, Anthropic said.
That acceleration creates a feedback loop that Anthropic warned could eventually lead to what researchers call "recursive self-improvement."
That's the idea of an AI system that becomes capable of essentially teaching itself to get smarter, without much human help.
"We are not there yet, and recursive self-improvement is not inevitable," th Anthropic report said, while adding that it could arrive sooner than most governments and institutions are ready for.
"The evidence suggests that the human role is narrowing at each step in the AI development process," the company said.❑

SpaceX signs pre-IPO deal to provide AI computing to Google

Washington, United States
SpaceX on Friday signed a blockbuster cloud computing agreement under which Google will pay the Elon Musk-founded rocket company $920 million per month for access to a massive cluster of AI chips, according to a disclosure in its initial public offering filing.
The deal, which will bolster SpaceX's finances ahead of its IPO on June 12, covers a computing infrastructure of approximately 110,000 Nvidia GPUs the crucial hardware needed to power Google's Gemini AI models.
The filing says Google will begin paying the full monthly rate in October 2026, with a reduced fee applying during a ramp-up period until then.
The agreement runs through June 2029, implying total payments of roughly $30 billion over the life of the contract.
The deal resembles one struck with AI giant Anthropic, in which SpaceX leased compute capacity at its Colossus data centers in Memphis, Tennessee for $1.25 billion a month.

The Space Exploration Technologies Corp.

The facilities were originally built to power Musk's rival AI venture, xAI.
SpaceX's IPO filing revealed that xAI last year posted an operating loss of $6.4 billion on total revenue of $3.2 billion.
"This is a short-term, timely agreement to ensure we have bridge capacity to meet surging customer demand for our agent platform, Gemini Enterprise, which has been even higher than we expected," a Google Cloud spokesperson said in an email to AFP.
The filing adds that after December 31, "the agreement may be terminated by either party upon 90 days' notice."
The deals with Google and Anthropic come just days ahead of SpaceX's IPO, which will be the biggest in history, valuing the company at $1.8 trillion.
That valuation is largely based on faith that Musk can deliver on his ambitions to vastly expand his Starlink satellite business, put data centers into space using SpaceX rockets, as well as begin colonizing Mars.❑

Ferrari's British driver Lewis Hamilton takes part in the second practice session at the Monaco street circuit in Monaco, ahead of the Monaco Formula 1 Grand Prix, on June 5, 2026.

Revived Hamilton leads Ferrari one-two in Monaco practice

Monte Carlo, Principality of Monaco

Seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton rolled back the years on Friday when he outpaced Ferrari team-mate Charles Leclerc to clock the fastest time in second practice for Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix.

The 41-year-old Briton, a three-time winner at the unforgiving Mediterranean street circuit and chasing his third pole at the event, clocked a best lap in one minute and 13.026 seconds to beat the local hero by 0.111 seconds.

After his strong second-place finish at the Canadian Grand Prix, this was proof that Hamilton has rediscovered his mojo and will seek a record-enhancing 105th pole position and 106th win this weekend.

He won in Monaco in 2008, 2016 and 2019 and is one of six former winners in the field.

His performance came after attributing much of his improved form this year to the role of his 52-year-old Italian race engineer Carlo Santi, who succeeded Riccardo Adami, and other changes made for his second season at Ferrari.

"I feel like Carlo is like my Italian 'Bono'," said Hamilton referring to the Mercedes race engineer Peter Bonnington who now works with championship leader Kimi Antonelli.

"I told Bono that the other day. He's a bit of an OG! He's an older guy that's been around the block. He's very calm. You can hear him on the radio."

Four-time champion Max Verstappen was third fastest for Red Bull, 0.168 adrift, ahead of the Mercedes of George Russell and championship-leading Italian teenager Kimi Antonelli, three-tenths and five-tenths off the pace.

Hamilton will also seek an eighth Monaco podium on Sunday to draw level with Ayrton Senna's record of eight.

Isack Hadjar recovered from a crash during opening practice to finish sixth in the second Red Bull ahead of Oscar Piastri of McLaren, whose team-mate world champion Lando Norris suffered battery failure and wound up down in 19th place.

The two Audis of Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto were eighth and ninth ahead Olver Bearman of Haas while it was another dismal day for Aston Martin with two-time champion Fernando Alonso 20th and Lance Stroll 22nd.

The session began with Hadjar's car still up on axle stands, as Russell led the way, under a blue sky with a mild 22 degrees Celsius. Verstappen set an early time before the Ferraris took over with Leclerc in front by a whisker ahead of Hamilton until Verstappen took over.

Everyone, bar the Aston Martins on softs, ran on mediums as the track ramped up, providing more grip and faster lap times as Hamilton proved by going top in 1:13.729, 0.279 clear of Verstappen.

Hadjar joined the fray after 14 minutes. "Thank you, guys," he said as he pulled out shortly before a Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed briefly when Norris pulled up at the Nouvelle Chicane with a battery-related electrical failure.

On resumption, Leclerc regained control, edging Hamilton by 0.058 seconds in 1:13.613 before Verstappen took softs and clocked 1:13.467. Both Mercedes men also took softs, too, but were unable to catch the trop trio until Russell rose to second.

Ferrari finally took to softs with 26 minutes to go, Leclerc soon clocking 1:13.137 to take command by 0.057 before Hamilton, clearly in the mood, trimmed that in 1:13.026.❑

Seth Jarvis #24 celebrates with K'andre Miller #19 of the Carolina Hurricanes after scoring the game-winning goal to defeat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-3 during overtime in Game Two of the 2026 Stanley Cup Final at Lenovo Center on June 04, 2026 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Hurricanes top Golden Knights in OT to level Stanley Cup Final

Washington, United States

Seth Jarvis scored the overtime game-winner as the Carolina Hurricanes rallied for a thrilling 4-3 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights on Thursday to level the Stanley Cup Final.

Jarvis scored on the power play at 3:56 of overtime, firing a one-timer past Golden Knights goaltender Carter Hart to seal a wild win in which the Hurricanes scored three third-period goals to seize the lead, only for Vegas to grab another and force the extra session.

"It was a lot," Jarvis said of a third period that also featured a goal waved off because of goaltender interference.

"We did a great job controlling our emotions. I think we never got too high, never got too low, just kept responding.

"And that's what I love about this group -- we always bounce back," he added after the Hurricanes knotted the NHL's best-of-seven championship series at one game apiece.

The Golden Knights, who came from behind to take game one 5-4, appeared in control with a 2-0 lead on goals in the first and second period from Brett Howden, who tied Jonathan Marchessault's franchise record with 13 in a single postseason.

Carolina stormed back with three goals in just over five minutes.

Logan Stankoven launched the onslaught, stealing the puck from Rasmus Andersson behind the net and wrapping it around the right post to find the net off Jeremy Lauzon.

Mark Jankowski tied it with a high glove-side wrist shot and Jordan Staal gave the Hurricanes the lead with 4:35 left in regulation when he redirected Shayne Gostisbehere's shot on the power play.

Just 25 seconds before Staal struck, Vegas thought they had scored.

Hurricanes goalie Frederik Andersen sprawled to deny Ivan Barbashev with his stick.

The puck trickled into the net, but the goal was waved off and the call stood up when a video review confirmed Barbashev interfered with Andersen.

Staal took advantage on the ensuing power play, but the drama wasn't over, with Mark Stone tying it at 3-3 with 1:21 left in the third.❑

Zverev to face Cobolli in French Open final after beating Mensik

Paris, France
Alexander Zverev moved to the verge of a long-awaited first Grand Slam title as the second seed saw off Jakub Mensik in four sets on Friday to set up a French Open final against Flavio Cobolli.
The German will face 10th seed Cobolli on Sunday after securing a 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory over Mensik.

Cobolli did not even have to play his first Grand Slam semi-final, as his last-four opponent and fellow Italian Matteo Arnaldi withdrew from the tournament shortly before the match due to illness.
Zverev has endured several near misses at the majors, with three previous final defeats, including against Carlos Alcaraz at Roland Garros two years ago.

"This is a Grand Slam, it's best of five, things are going to happen, opponents are going to play better. I managed it," said Zverev.
"I hope to play another great match on Sunday."
Zverev will be a strong favourite when he faces Cobolli, against whom he holds a 3-1 winning record, to finally get over the line and lift a Slam trophy.
The world number three was playing in his 11th Grand Slam semi-final and his experience showed against Czech youngster Mensik.

The 20-year-old, in the last four of a major for the first time, tired as the match went on as his previous exertions in Paris, including two five-set matches, took their toll.

Germany's Alexander Zverev serves to Czech Republic's Jakub Mensik during their men's semi final singles match on day 13 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on June 5, 2026.

Zverev has dealt well with the pressure of being the tournament favourite since the early exits of Jannik Sinner and Novak Djokovic, in the second and third rounds respectively.
He will face one last test of his mental strength on Court Philippe Chatrier in two days' time, but should at least be fresh physically after reaching the final having only lost two sets in six matches.
"Pure emptiness, there's absolutely nothing in my head," insisted a smiling Zverev in his on-court interview.
"We're athletes, very few of us have anything in our heads. Sometimes it's easier to be stupid and not to think too much."
The 29-year-old has been within one set of victory in two of his previous three Slam finals, when facing Alcaraz in Paris in 2024 and when he blew a two-set lead against Dominic Thiem at the 2020 US Open.
Zverev is also aiming to end a 14-month title drought dating back to a clay-court event in Munich in April last year.

- Mensik briefly threatens comeback -
Zverev took a closely-fought first set courtesy of a break in the 11th game, having earlier saved three break points to deny Mensik a 5-3 lead.
The 26th seed could not keep pace at all in the second set, as Zverev broke twice and only dropped four points on his own serve.
Mensik called for a medical time-out just three games into the third set, appearing to struggle with a neck injury.

But he dragged himself back into the contest seemingly out of nowhere, breaking to take a 4-2 lead in the third set as his use of the drop shot started to make a greater impact.

That shot wrapped up a hold to love and the set only the second Zverev had lost in the tournament.
Mensik could not keep up his momentum, though, falling 2-0 behind in the fourth set as consecutive backhand unforced errors gifted Zverev a break.
The three-time Grand Slam runner-up powered into the final from there, despite drawing the ire of some spectators for disputing two line calls and also receiving a warning for a time violation.
Zverev wrapped up victory on his first match point as Mensik netted a backhand.

- Arnaldi withdraws -
World number 104 Arnaldi had spent the most amount of time on court for a player en route to a Grand Slam semi-final, winning marathon matches in the third and fourth rounds.
His quarter-final opponent Matteo Berrettini retired injured in the second set of their last-eight tie.

But Arnaldi's dreams of a remarkable Slam title were ended by a virus.

"It's tough for how the tournament was, for how many hours I spent on court, I felt pretty good," said Arnaldi.
"Every time I get up I feel dizzy and not the best... so that was the right decision for me."
Cobolli has dropped just two sets in the event so far and impressed in his quarter-final victory over Canadian fourth seed Felix Auger-Aliassime.
"It's tough for me to speak also. When he came to me an hour ago I almost cried," said Cobolli of his friend Arnaldi.
"At the same time I'm happy with the result this week."❑

Yankees' Judge sidelined with rib stress fracture

Aaron Judge #99 of the New York Yankees looks on from the dugout during the fourth inning against the Cleveland Guardians at Yankee Stadium on June 02, 2026 in New York City.

New York, United States
New York Yankees slugger Aaron Judge will miss significant time with a stress fracture of the first rib on his right side, the Major League Baseball team said on Thursday.
Judge will have further scans in four to six weeks "to determine level of healing and appropriate next steps," the Yankees said, but is "expected to return at some point this season."
He will need "a period of rest and limited activity".
In 2019 Judge suffered a stress fracture of the right first rib and a partially collapsed lung while attempting a diving catch.
Judge won his third American League Most Valuable Player award last season, when he belted 53 home runs and led the major leagues with a .331 batting average.
But he has missed three straight games as he tried to discover the cause of discomfort in his right shoulder that Yankees manager Aaron Boone said had troubled him for "the last couple of weeks".❑